

Report of the Commissioner on Indian Affairs.

NEBRASKA TERRITORY.

We copy that part of the Commissioner's Report which relates to Nebraska.

By a provision contained in an act of Congress, approved the 3d of March last, the President was authorized to enter into negotiations with the Indian tribes west of the States of Missouri and Iowa, for the purpose of procuring their assent to the settlement of our citizens upon the lands claimed by them, and of extinguishing their title in whole or in part to those lands.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs was designated by the President as the officer of the Indian Department, to conduct the necessary negotiations, and that duty was undertaken by him at the earliest period consistent with his other official engagements.

A preliminary visit to the Indian country, with a view to explore its extent and to obtain such information as would be useful and necessary in preparing full and detailed instructions as to the terms and conditions of the treaties to be negotiated, was deemed necessary, and was made by that officer, in obedience to his instructions. While thus engaged, he visited the Omaha, Otoe, and Missouri, Iowa, Sacs and Foxes, of Missouri, Kickapoo, Delaware, Shawnee, Wyandott, Potawatomi, Sacs and Foxes, of the Mississippi, Chickasaw, of South Carolina, and Chickasaw, of Ohio, of the Red and Blue River, Ottawa, of the Red and Blue River, and Peoria and Shawnee, of Kansas, and Peoria and Shawnee, of Missouri.

These tribes are all the tribes located west of the Missouri and Iowa, except the bands of Quapaw, Seneca, Shawnee, and Seneca, who have small tracts adjacent to the south-west corner of the State of Missouri, and whom, for want of time, the Commissioner was unable to visit.

The same effort operated to prevent his seeing the Pawnee, Kansas and Osage Indians, with whom, although their lands are not contiguous to the boundaries of either of these States, it is desirable also that treaties be made should a civil government be established, and the country open for settlement.

The Commissioner held councils with every tribe whom he visited, and disclosed to them the object of his journey to their country. He found the Indian mind in an unfavorable condition to receive and estimate his message. For some time previous to his arrival in the Indian country, individuals from the States had been exploring portions of it with the intention, as was understood, of attempting to make location and settlements. The discussion of the subject, and the exploration of the country, by citizens of the States alarmed and excited the Indians. Some of them were preparing a general council at which it was designed to fight up the old Indian fires, and confederate for defense against the white people, who they believed were coming in force to drive them from their country, and occupy it without their consent or without consideration. Under such circumstances, it was very difficult to quiet the Indians, or direct their minds of an impression that the Commissioner's visit was not in some way or other intended to aid the whites in a forcible occupation of the country. As he progressed in his journey, and conferred with the tribes, the difficulty was gradually relieved.

With but few exceptions, the Indians were opposed to selling any part of their lands, unannounced in their replies to the speeches of the Commissioner; finally, however, many tribes expressed their willingness to sell, but on the condition they could retain their reservations on their present tracts of land. This policy was deemed objectionable, and not to be adopted if it could be avoided. With such tribes, the time of trading was deferred until next spring, with the hope that the Indians by that time might see that their permanent interest required an entire transfer of all their lands to their removal to a new home. Some tribes declined to dispose of any portion, and all, with the exception of the Wyandott and Ottawa, who expressed an opinion on the subject of an organization of a civil government in that territory, were opposed to the measure. They have, with but few exceptions, a very crude and unintelligible idea of the white man's laws, deeming them engines of tyranny and oppression, and they dread as well as fear them.

Before the Commissioner left the country, quite a change was perceptible among the Indians, and it is believed that with but few exceptions the tribes will, next spring, enter into treaties to dispose of large portions of their country, and some of them will sell the whole of their lands. The idea of retaining reservations, which seem to be generally entertained, is not deemed to be consistent with their true interests, and every good influence ought to be exercised to enlighten them on the subject. If they dispose of their lands, no reservations should, if it can be avoided, be granted or allowed.

There are some Indians, in various tribes, who are occupying farms, comfortably situated, and who are in such an advanced state of civilization that if they desire to remain the privilege might well, and ought, perhaps, to be granted, and their farms, in such cases, reserved for their homes. Such Indians would be qualified to enjoy the privileges of citizenship.

But to make reservations for an entire tribe on the tract which it now owns, would, it is believed, be injurious to the future peace, prosperity and advancement of these people. The Commissioner, as far as he judged it prudent, endeavored to enlighten them on this point, and labored to convince them that it was not consistent with the interests of themselves and their posterity, that they should have tribal reservations within their present limits.

The condition of the Indians located west of the Missouri and Iowa is not as prosperous, or their advance in civilization as rapid as the official reports annually received from that part of the country would authorize us to expect. In several tribes are to be found some educated, intelligent men; and many are able to the cultivation of the earth to sustain themselves. Among these classes are some sincere professors of religion, but the mass of the Indians are indolent and indigent, and many of them are degraded and debased.

The transplanting of these Indians, and the dedication of their present country to their use and their future home, was an emanation of the purest benevolence, and the dictate of humanity. Vast sums of money have been expended by the Government for the sustenance, comfort and civilization of these unfortunate people, and the missionary has occupied that field of labor long and faithfully; but notwithstanding all that has been done by the Government and good men, the experiment has measurably failed.

Located generally on larger tracts of land, separated into small and distinct bands, roaming at will and wandering in idleness, the mass of these tribes are in a degraded state with no hope of a considerable degree of reformation, (even with much improvement, were practicable in present management,) without a change of residence. Their opinions, habits, customs and pursuits, which present an almost insurmountable obstacle to their change from a primitive state, find now but little resistance, while the advice of the agent, and the efforts of the teacher and divine, are counteracted, to a very great extent, by influences of an adverse character, and which, it is presumed, will predominate, so long as these Indians are permitted to remain where they now reside.

The acquisition of Texas, New Mexico, and our Pacific possessions, and the vast annual migration which passes through the Indian country, and over the Indian reservations, on its journey thither, and which was not anticipated at the time the Indians were located there, render it absolutely necessary that they be placed out of the path of the emigrants as far as practicable. The interests of both require it. In the present condition of the Indian, no good results to him from his contact with the emigrant, while the latter is always embarrassed on this journey, and frequently injured by the presence of the former.

Except the Wyandott and Ottawa, who have a few simple laws, all the Indian tribes north of the Cherokee line are without any prescribed form of government. The intercourse, not, it is believed, extends to protection to the emigrants, and this adventurous and valuable class of our people is, therefore, unprotected while in the Indian country. This state of things ought not to exist. The intercourse, as it amended, and its provisions extended to them, would still be insufficient, if not a dead letter, by reason of the great distance of the United States officers in the States from the Indian country. In my judgment, the interests of the Indians require that a civil government be immediately organized in the Territory. The Executive of the Territory discharging, by virtue of his office, the duties of Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and having a direct oversight of the Indian service there, would exercise a happy influence not only on the border tribes, but in a brief space of time on the Indians of the plains.

In the Annual Report of the 30th Nov. 1848, the then Commissioner of Indian Affairs suggested the policy of procuring and keeping open portions of the lands west of the Missouri and Iowa, for the express and exclusive use of our own population, and the better measure has been urged in several annual reports. The necessity of opening an ample Western outlet for our rapidly increasing population seems to have been clearly foreseen by this Department. The negotiations with the Indians, who will have to be distributed, and the arrangements necessary for their peaceful and comfortable re-location, requiring time and deliberation, it is to be regretted that the authority and means for the accomplishment of the object were not given more in advance of the exigency which has occurred, and which appears to require proceedings of a more precipitate character than should have been permitted to become necessary.

Objections may be urged to the organization of a civil government in the Indian country; but those that cannot be overcome are not to be compared to the advantages which will flow to the Indians from such measure, with treaties to conform to the new order of things, and suitable laws for their protection.

In addition to this, the preparation of a large portion of that country for settlement, by the removal of the Indians, would open up in a most desirable locality, homes for the enterprising and hardy pioneers, who are ready to occupy it, and by their energies speedily found a State, the beneficial influences of which, from its position, could be of inestimable advantages to the Indians, as well as the government and people of the United States.

It is respectfully suggested that the sum of money appropriated by Congress at the late session, is not deemed adequate, in view of the extent and magnitude of the object contemplated, and it is recommended that a further appropriation be made early in the next session, for the purpose of treating with the tribes indicated by the law of the last session, and an extension of that authority, so that treaties, if deemed necessary, either to supply the emigrated tribes with new homes, or otherwise may be made with the other Indians, in what is known as Nebraska. These treaties can, it is believed, all be made in the month of April and May next, and submitted to the Senate in ample time for Congress to establish a civil Government at its next session.

FALL EXHIBITION.

HUBBELL & HUNT, No. 129 Fourth street, St. Louis.

TAKE this method of informing the citizens of St. Louis and vicinity, that they have now in store an entire new stock of FASHIONABLE AND STAPLE Dry Goods.

Recently imported and selected expressly for their Fall trade, embracing the most extensive, rich and desirable stock of Dry Goods ever before opened in St. Louis, or West or New York.

Every Lady who visits St. Louis Should not fail of calling at their great emporium of trade, as their immense stock embraces almost every thing called for under the name of Dry Goods, and their styles are the very latest, being fully equal in magnificence to the richest goods found in the largest houses in the East.

The One Price System strictly adhered to. Every article in this extensive establishment is plainly marked at the lowest cash price, and no salesman is allowed to deviate from it. This system has been universally approved by their patrons, as it necessarily obliges the proprietors to mark their goods at the very lowest market rates, and those unacquainted with the present market prices of rich goods can buy with confidence that every article they purchase of Hubbard & Hunt is marked at a low price, and can be sold by any respectable dry goods house in the west, and most of their rich goods are 20 per cent. below the regular prices.

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STEAM BOAT AGENCY.

GENERAL COMMISSION, RECEIVING AND FORWARDING.

NANSON & BARTHOLOW, Commission Merchants and Produce Dealers.

Boys leave to announce to their friends and the public generally, that their arrangements for the present year are extensive and complete, and they are prepared to receive and forward Produce and Merchandise of every description with promptness and on reasonable terms.

They have convenient, ample and safe Warehouses, where the new and large brick warehouse, erected by Capt. Nicholas at the lower Landing, formerly occupied by Nanson & Robbins, and the large commodious Frame warehouse at the landing of N. W. Lewis & Bro's, north Glasgow, at either of which Merchandise and Produce will be received and stored.

They pledge their personal attention to all business entrusted to them, and respectfully solicit a continuance from the friends of the old concern, and the patronage of the public.

NANSON & BARTHOLOW, Glasgow, Jan. 1, 1853.

G. O. WAGNER'S CONFECTIONARY & BAKERY, (Next door to Child's Old Corner), Water St., Glasgow, Mo.

THE subscriber respectfully announces that he is prepared at the shortest notice to fill orders for cakes of every description, for Weddings, Occasions, Social Parties, OR FAMILY USE.

His stock of plain and fancy candy is complete, and embraces, in part—

Peppermint, Lemon, Wintergreen, Rose, Clove, &c. Cinnamon, Cream, Cinnamon, Cream, Cinnamon, Cream.

Peppermint, Lemon, Wintergreen, Rose, Clove, &c. Cinnamon, Cream, Cinnamon, Cream, Cinnamon, Cream.

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Peppermint, Lemon, Wintergreen,